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ONGAR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year Ending 31st December

1949

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ONGAR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the

Ongar Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

Vital Statistics.

The birth rate was slightly lower at 18.0 per 1,000 of the population, but this is higher than the birth rate for England and Wales at 16.7 per 1,000 of the population. There were 145 deaths, a death rate of 9.9. per 1,000 population, compared with 11.7 deaths per 1,000 population in England and Wales.

With 264 births and 145 deaths there was a natural increase of 69 in the population, but the Registrar General estimated our population at 14,650, an increase of 280 on the 1948 estimate. The difference in the natural increase and the Registrar General's estimate must be explained by immigration. House building has tried to keep pace with this increase in population.

There were eight infant deaths under one year, and the infant death rate was 30.3 per 1,000 live births. The comparable figure for England and Wales was 32 per 1,000 live births. There was no maternal death in 1949.

Infectious Diseases.

The matter of greatest concern during the year was the occurrence of a nationwide poliomyelitis epidemic. In England and Wales 14 cases were notified per 100,000 of the population. Seven cases of poliomyelitis were notified in this district, and two of the cases were fatal. The aftermath of paralysed limbs in those who recover presents a serious problem not only to the individual but to the community. It is regrettable that there is no known method of preventing an outbreak or controlling its spread.

During a poliomyelitis epidemic the virus is assumed to be widespread and it is believed that many are infected who never develop symptoms, and efforts have been made to find those factors which render the infected person susceptible to the paralytic manifestations of the disease.

The poliomyelitis cases here and in Epping Urban and Rural Districts were investigated with the help of Dr. McFarlan of the

Department of Human Ecology, Cambridge University, and in those cases developing muscular paralysis, a history of unaccustomed muscle exercise, muscle strain or muscle injury was common. In one case of polioencephalitis—a mental form of the disease—an abnormal mental stress had occurred a few days before the onset. Research elsewhere has suggested that the trivial injury from tonsil operation or from an intra-muscular inoculation may act as a precipitating factor in some cases which later develop paralysis. The exact nature of such an association is not yet known, but it can be said that this possibility appears to be limited to cases where virus of poliomyelitis is already present and therefore, broadly speaking, to periods of outbreaks of poliomyelitis.

The matter is being investigated by the Medical Research Council and in the event of a poliomyelitis outbreak, immunisation can be postponed temporarily.

For many years the statistics of Infectious Disease have been accepted as a measure of the health of a district, but advances in chemotherapy since 1935 have brought about a change. The sulphonamides have reduced the danger from puerperal sepsis and pneumonia. Penicillin has quelled the menace of scarlet and meningococcal fever. Streptomycin gives promise of the reduction of menace of tuberculosis and chloramphenicol shows similar promise in typhoid and whooping cough. Immunisation has done much to reduce diphtheria, and last year no diphtheria cases were notified in the Ongar Rural District.

The housing shortage still exists, but as yet there is no means of statistical assessment of the dissatisfaction, frustration and despair arising from the compulsory and interminable sharing of households that show themselves in unhappy and broken homes, in anti-social behaviour and in psychosomatic illnesses.

Tuberculosis and poliomyelitis were the most serious infections in 1949.

During 1949 fifteen new cases of tuberculosis were notified compared with thirteen cases in 1948. The disease caused two deaths compared with seven deaths in the previous year.

Lead Poisoning from Drinking Water.

An unusual lead poisoning incident occurred in Navestockside. For years water had been drawn from the well by a pump through a lead pipe with no ill effects on the consumers, but in January, 1949, an additional lead pipe was immersed in the well and the plumbo-solvent water was drawn through this new pipe. The extra pipe and the additional length traversed was sufficient to raise the concentration of lead in the drinking water above toxic limits. No ill effects were experienced until August, 1949, when the family concerned were taken ill after a meal of winkles. It is possible that the high Iodide content of the winkles mobilised the accumulated

lead in their bodies and so precipitated the onset of acute lead poisoning in three members of the family. A piped mains water supply was provided twelve weeks after the Council authorised a 400-yard extension of the water main.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Several cases have been considered for possible action under the powers given in this Act. (Persons living in insanitary conditions.)

It was not necessary to take action in any instance as co-operation was obtained. The investigation and action taken did, however, draw attention to the shortage of hospital accommodation for the elderly chronic sick. Urgent cases are expected to wait for long periods before admission. The ratio of beds available for chronic sick should be maintained in a fixed ratio to the estimated numbers of over 70's in the population composition. Unfortunately there is no evidence that the increase in hospital beds for elderly chronic sick is being maintained in proportion to the gradual increase in their numbers.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

With regard to the review of the working arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council have, so far as possible, adhered to their proposals made as Local Health Authority and the work over the past year has been conducted on these lines as set out under the various sections of the Act, being expanded so far as this has been possible.

No major difficulties seem to have arisen, and I think a fair summary would be to say that the year's work has been mainly a continuation of existing services.

In concluding my Report, I would like to record my appreciation to the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation, and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during 1949.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. PATTON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1949

Chairman : Councillor Dr. S. A. M. Hatfield.

Members :

Councillors

H. G. Acres, C.C.	J. S. Filshie	S. Padfield
T. J. Bellamy	Miss C. M. Gillespie	Mrs. D. E. Pepperell
Rev. E. Bennett	J. H. Gingell	E. G. Roast
Rees	E. Green	F. W. A. Spencer
H. Boulton	D. R. Gunary	W. H. Twynham
F. Bretton, J.P.	Miss M. F. Hadler	J. H. Wainwright
Mrs. G. V. Childs	E. S. Hall	E. C. Wallis
H. E. Clarke	E. W. Marsh	F. C. Webber
J. T. Coles	N. F. Miles	F. A. Wheelhouse
P. Connor	H. W. Millbank	E. Wood
J. Denholm	J. Osborn	J. R. Woollard

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. J. L. Patton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

Mrs. I. M. Stock (Joint)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. R. S. Shears, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. L. G. Smart, M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

Miss G. B. Guest.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	47,236
Population	14,370
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,301
Sum represented by a penny rate	£249
Rateable Value	£66,498

The rate in the pound was 19s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	140	109	249
Illegitimate	7	8	15
		TOTAL	264

Birth rate per 1,000 population	18.0
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Still Births:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
		TOTAL	6

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	22.2
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Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	77	68	145
	(Registrar General's Figures)		

Death rate per 1,000 population	9.9
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0
		TOTAL	8

Death rate of infants under 1 year in Ongar ...	30.3
(per 1,000 live births)	

„ „ „ „ England and Wales ..	32.0
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Maternal Deaths:

Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	0
Other maternal causes	0
	TOTAL 0

Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years	0
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CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1949

	Male	Female	Total
Poliomyelitis	2	0	2
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0	2	2
Tuberculosis, other forms	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Influenza	1	2	3
Cancer (all forms)	10	17	27
Diabetes	0	2	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	3	8	11
Heart Disease	36	20	56
Other Diseases of the Circulatory system	5	2	7
Bronchitis	5	3	8
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	2	0	2
Digestive Diseases	0	0	0
Nephritis	1	1	2
Syphilis	0	0	0
Premature Birth	1	0	1
Congenital malformations and Birth Trauma	2	2	4
Suicide	0	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	0	0	0
Other Violent Causes	1	0	1
All other causes	4	5	9
TOTALS ...	77	68	145

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN THE YEAR 1949

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns)

Rates per 1,000 population.

	England and Wales	126 Co. Bor. and Great Towns includ. London	148 Smaller Towns Residential pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adm. County	Ongar Rural Dist.
Births :					
Live Births	16.7	18.7	18.0	18.5	18.0
Still Births	0.39	0.47	0.4	0.37	0.4
Deaths :					
All causes	11.7	12.5	11.6	12.2	9.9

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** A Ministry of Health Laboratory operates at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Milk, water and ice-cream samples are examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Queen Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

(b) **Hospitals.** The district is served by various hospitals under the Epping, Chelmsford and Brentwood Group Hospital Management Committees.

(c) **Child Welfare.** The Welfare Authority is the Essex County Council. Clinics are held at the following times and places :—

Ongar :	The Congregational Church	2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month, 2 p.m.
Abridge :	The Gymnasium	2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month, 2.30 p.m.
Moreton :	The Village Hall	2nd Wednesday in the month, 2 p.m.
Fyfield :	The Village Hall	3rd Wednesday in the month, 2 p.m.
Doddington :	The Village Hall	3rd Tuesday in the month, 2 p.m.
Willingale :	The Village Hall	3rd Thursday in the month, 2 p.m.
Blackmore :	The Baptist Chapel	1st Wednesday in the month, 2 p.m.
Navestock :	The Village Hall	3rd Wednesday in the month, 2 p.m.
Kelvedon Common :	The Village Hall	1st Thursday in the month, 2 p.m.
High Ongar :	The Village Hall	2nd Friday in the month, 2 p.m.
Toot Hill :	The Village Hall	2nd Tuesday in the month, 2 p.m.
Abbess Roding :	The Village Hall	4th Wednesday in the month, 2 p.m.

Diphtheria immunisation is available free of charge at any of these clinics.

Home Visiting is carried out by the County Council's Health Visitors in the area.

(d) **School Health Service.** The Education Authority is the Essex County Council. School Nurses inspect the children regularly, and there is a medical inspection at each school not less than once a year.

(e) **Tuberculosis.** A Chest Clinic is held at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (old cases by appointment) and new cases every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. (by appointment).

During the year the Care Association covering the Chigwell, Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar Districts continued to do useful work. The Association assists cases awaiting admission to sanatorium in various ways and arranges for the admission of child contacts to convalescent homes. It concerns itself also with the after care of patients by assistance in obtaining materials for occupational therapy and whenever possible suitable employment for those fit to work. The Association is supported by voluntary contributions, and receives also a grant from the County Council.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. A. J. Edwards, 37, Woodland Road, Loughton.

(f) **District Nurses** employed by the Ongar District Nursing Association and Midwives employed by the Essex County Council serve the area.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

					Cases Notified		Deaths
					1948	1949	in 1949
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	60	28	1
Measles	....	....	....	....	51	61	0
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	13	12	0
Meningitis	....	....	....	....	0	0	0
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	1	2	0
Typhoid Fever	....	....	....	....	0	1	0
Poliomyelitis, etc.	....	....	....	....	0	7	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	0	0	0
Infective Hepatitis	....	....	....	....	7	1	0
Dysentery	....	....	....	....	2	0	0
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	0	6	6
Food Poisoning	....	....	....	....	0	4	0
Gastro-Enteritis	....	....	....	....	0	0	0
Influenza *	....	....	....	....	0	0	3
Tuberculosis (all forms)	....	....	....	....	13	15	2

Food Poisoning.

No outbreak occurred in 1949. Personal attention has been given to all classes of food premises and their co-operation has given excellent results.

COMPARATIVE TABLES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATION AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION, 1949

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns)

			Notifications		Deaths	
			England and Wales	Ongar R.D.	England and Wales	Ongar R.D.
Typhoid Fever ....	....		0.01	0.07	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid ....	....		0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cerebrospinal Fever ....	....		1.63	0.83		
Scarlet Fever ....	....		1.63	0.83		
Whooping Cough ....	....		2.39	1.91	0.01	0.07
Diphtheria ....	....		0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ....	....		0.19	0.14		
Smallpox ....	....		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ....	....		8.95	4.16		
Pneumonia ....	....		0.80	0.35	0.51	0.41
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	....		0.13	0.42		
					0.01	0.14
Acute Polioencephalitis ....	....		0.01	0.07		
Food Poisoning ....	....		0.14	0.28		
Influenza ....	....				0.15	0.30
Tuberculosis ....	....				0.45	0.20

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Water Supply.

The Council are responsible for the supply of water to the Parishes of Blackmore, Doddinghurst, Norton Mandeville and Beauchamp Roothing, the remainder of the Area coming under the control of the Herts and Essex Waterworks Co., Ltd., Harlow.

Reference to the Annual Report for 1947 will show that 2,999 houses inspected under the Rural Housing Survey 1,123 were not connected to the mains water supply. Although good progress has been made by the Council in their own area of supply during the year much remains to be done before the Council's duty under Section 28 of the Water Act, 1945, has been resolved. Approval by the Minister has been given to the following schedules as agreed between the Herts and Essex Waterworks Co., Ltd., and the Council for the laying of mains under Section 36 of the Water Act, 1945 :—

Fyfield to Norwood End	3,793 yards
Marden Ash to Hare Street, Stanford Rivers	2,937 „
Theydon Mount	933 „
Stapleford Tawney to "Suttons"	1,960 „
Stapleford Tawney to Stapleford Tawney Hall	2,376 „
Navestock	1,617 „
Tysea Hill to Wattons Green	1,533 „
Stondon Massey to Clapgate	1,733 „

The mains are to be laid in 1950 and will make a substantial contribution to the overall position.

(i) (a) Quality has been satisfactory in both areas of supply.

(b) Quantity: No complaints as to the quantity in the Herts and Essex area have been received, but the lack of pressure in the Parish of Doddinghurst (the Council purchase water in bulk by agreement from the Herts and Essex Waterworks Co., Ltd.) was again the subject of complaints, water having to be carted during the summer months. The Water Company are unable to provide the Council with more water at Doddinghurst until their mains between Chipping Ongar and High Ongar have been augmented and this matter is under discussion.

(ii)	Herts & Essex Water Company	District Council
Bacterial examinations of the raw water	12	—
Bacterial examinations of treated water	12	12

Additionally the Essex County Council take spot samples of the raw water at the Company's pumping station at Roydon.

The results obtained are consistently good as the appended typical specimens demonstrate, but during the month of August an adverse report was received in respect of a sample taken at Blackmore (Council's area of supply) most probably due to lack of pressure in the main. The main was chlorinated and no further trouble ensued.

Chemical Results Expressed in Parts Per Million

Appearance—Slight greyish opalescence with a few mineral particles.

Turbidity (Silica Scale) 9

Colour (Hazen) Filtered.

Less than 10. Free Carbon Dioxide 36

Odour—Nil.

Alaklinity 310

Electric conductivity @ 20°C 650.

Ca	Mg	Na	CO ₃	SO ₄	Cl	NO ₃	SiO ₂	Probable Combinations	
100	21.7	25	186	46	25	A	21		
100			150					Calcium Carbonate	250
	14.5		36					Magnesium Carbonate	51
	7.2			28				Magnesium Sulphate....	35
		9		18				Sodium Sulphate	27
		16			25			Sodium Chloride	41
							24	Silica	24
Difference									7
Total solid constituents dried @ 180° C									435

Hardness—Total* 340 Carbonate (temp.) 310
Non-carbonate (perm.) 30
Nitrogen in Nitrates 0.0 Nitrogen in Nitrites Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia 0.38 (as N) 0.31. Residual Chlorine : Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.
at 27°C 0.30
Albuminoid 0.000 (as N) 0.000
Metals Iron : 0.46. Other metals absent. Flourine 0.6.

Bacteriological Results.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if present at time of sampling.)

No. of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in :

1 day @ 37°C	2 days @ 37°C	3 days @ 20°C
0	0	0

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in — Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli	Present in — Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

* The precise figure calculated from the calcium and magnesium contents.

This sample has a slight opalescence and a trace of matter in suspension, the turbidity being distinct but not marked.

The water is neutral in reaction, but has an appreciable content of free carbon dioxide. It is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from an objectionable trace of iron.

It is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

Clarification and the removal of the trace of iron is required to render the water suitable for public supply purposes and softening would be advantageous.

(iii) The water supplied by the Herts and Essex Waterworks Co., Ltd., is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

Arising from three cases of lead poisoning in October, 1949, due to the plumbo-solvency of well water on a lead supply pipe the Council authorised a 400-yard extension of water main, under guarantee. The main was completed in January, 1950.

(iv) Works of maintenance have been carried out to the several public wells under the control of the Council.

(v) **Hill Hall Estate, Theydon Mount.**

A water supply has been under the care and maintenance of the Hill Hall Estate for many years and provided a gratuitous supply for 13 cottages in Mount End. As the estate was sold the Council resolved that the control of this supply should rest in the District Council by virtue of Section 124 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The public main will be laid in 1950.

(vi) The particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population served from public water mains are as follows :—

Parish	Direct to Houses	Population Served	By Means of Standpipe	Population Served
Blackmore	196	690	50	173
Bobbingworth	64	224	39	136
Chipping Ongar	245	857	31	108
Doddinghurst	178	623	21	74
Fyfield	47	162	45	157
Greensted	194	679	7	24
High Laver	44	154	38	133
High Ongar (Marden Ash)	273	952	4	14
High Ongar	166	582	43	151
Kelvedon Hatch	82	286	52	182
Lambourne	305	1,068	27	95
Little Laver	3	10	0	0
Moreton	68	238	20	70
Navestock	56	196	51	178
Norton Mandeville	14	48	20	70
Abbess, Berners, Beau- champ Roding	16	56	6	21
Shelley	91	319	9	31
Stapleford Abbotts	141	493	41	143
Stapleford Tawney	0	0	0	0
Stondon Massey	71	248	16	56
Stanford Rivers	100	350	18	63
Theydon Mount	26	91	2	7
Willingale	58	203	44	154
	2,438	8,529	584	2,040

Total number of premises with mains supply	3,022
Total population served	10,569

SEWERAGE.

The sewage works at Abbess Roothing, which have been purchased from the Air Ministry, are capable of dealing with the whole of the sewage from Abbess Roothing and Matching Green. The Council in conjunction with the Epping Rural District Council are considering the sewerage of Matching Green and parts of High Laver Parish.

The Council are negotiating with the Ministry of Works for the purchase of the Sewage works at Willingale.

FOOD.

Meat. There are no controlled Slaughterhouses in the area, but certain nominated private Slaughterhouses are used for the Ministry of Food—self suppliers—pig scheme. There being the closest liaison with the Local Food Executive Officer in this, as well as allied matters, i.e. Catering Licences, a weekly list of licences issued to slaughter pigs is received. To those owners whose pigs are being slaughtered locally a Circular letter is sent advising that the services of a Meat Inspector from the Department may be obtained by detaching and returning the slip attached. There is a case for existing legislation to be amended to require all food animals slaughtered for human consumption to be inspected whether for sale or not.

Horseflesh. There has been a marked increase in the number of horses slaughtered for sale for human consumption at the Crown Park Farm Slaughterhouse, Stapleford Abbotts.

Arising from the Report of the Departmental Committee on Export and Slaughter of Horses the Council were glad to note that "good control" was exercised in respect of this Slaughterhouse.

To the discerning the amount condemned in relation to the number slaughtered is significant.

	Horses	Asses	Foals
Number killed	1,002	2	1
Number inspected	1,002	2	1
Whole carcase condemned	2	0	0

Other condemnations :

Livers	247
Lungs	23
Kidneys	2
Forelegs	8 lbs.
Forequarters	100 lbs.

Goats. 206 Goats of Irish origin were also slaughtered.

Condemnations :

Whole carcasses condemned	22
Livers	31

HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF MEAT

The continued use of vehicles not primarily designed for the function of Meat Transport continues to be a most unsatisfactory feature and the Council's policy of education in food hygiene has often been countered by the comparison. If economy dictates full use of a vehicle in scattered areas all meat stacked on the floor should be protected from contamination.

FOOD PREMISES

A complete survey has been made of all classes of shops where the food is sold and/or stored, Bakehouses and Restaurant Kitchens. The typical village shop which often combines the business of a Post Office, Hardware Merchant, Greengrocer and Grocer in premises of inadequate size presents a very real problem. It is, however, heartening to record a marked degree of co-operation in the matter of hygiene in relation to food handling, but the educative work loses much in the absence of piped water supplies and sewerage facilities. Bakehouses and Confectioners shops were troubled with wasps due no doubt to the favourable weather conditions, and the use of a household electric cleaner with the dust bag containing D.D.T. powder by one enterprising trader was an effective and novel method of control. The extension of the registration to cover all classes of food premises under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is indicated and would reinforce certain sub-sections of Section 13.

The following premises are recorded :—

	Restau- rant Kitchens	Bake Houses	Fried Fish Shops	Butchers Shops	Wet Fish Shops	Grocers Shops	Ice cr'm re- tailers
Blackmore	.... 3	1	1	1	1	7	3
Bobbingworth	.... 2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Chipping Ongar	.... 5	2	1	3	2	6	4
Doddinghurst	.... 4	0	1	1	0	5	2
Fyfield	.... 1	2	0	0	0	3	1
High Ongar	.... 2	0	0	1	0	3	1
Kelvedon Hatch	.... 1	0	0	1	2	5	1
Lambourne	.... 6	2	1	1	1	5	3
Moreton	.... 2	2	0	0	0	5	1
Navestock	.... 0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Roothings	.... 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelley	.... 1	0	0	0	0	3	2
Stapleford Abbotts	.... 5	0	0	0	0	3	2
Stapleford Tawney	.... 0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stondon Massey	.... 1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Stanford Rivers	.... 1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Willingales	.... 0	0	0	0	0	3	0
TOTALS	.... 35	9	4	8	6	56	20

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947

There were no infringements of the regulations as regards the 20 registered retail premises, but informal action was taken in respect of the non-provision of washing and sterilising facilities of two of the several mobile vans which tour the district. Such vans ought also to be registered under Section 14 of the principal Act. Sixteen samples were taken during the year with the following results :—

	High Standard	Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatis- factory	
Bacterial Standard	3	6	4	3 =	16
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	
Ministry of Health provisional grades	7	5	2	2 =	16

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 28 power and 11 non-power factories on the register and 2 outworkers listed as engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Informal action was taken in respect of 2 cases of non-compliance with Section 7 of the Act.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	21	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	17	2	Nil
(3) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	39	38	2	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936—SECTION II

Two Demolition Orders were made during the year. The Order was determined in respect of one of the properties and in the other case a licence was issued under Defence Regulations 68 AA with the consent of the Minister.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

The provision of Part II of the Act if wisely applied will do much to improve Category 2 dwellings. The Council has publicised the Act through the medium of the quarterly bulletin " Rural Affairs " and by means of leaflets.

Action under Statutory Powers :

	Housing Repairs	Nuisances	Section 39 P.H. Act, 1936	P.H. Act 1936 Water Act, 1946
Statutory Notices authorised	28	2	1	5
Statutory Notices served	27	2	1	5
Work completed prior to service	1	0	0	0
Compliance	28	2	1	5

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Forty-seven samples of milk were taken from farms during the year of which only 4 were unsatisfactory. The operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 is a matter for regret since the most cordial relations exist between milk producers and the Department.

Supplementary Licences

Sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	....	3
Sale of Pasteurised Milk	....	2

PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS

There were 49 licences operative during the year for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION SERVICE

The ever growing demand for the regular and frequent collection of household refuse in the Area may be gauged by the following figures :—

Estimate	Year	1939/40—	£550.
„	„	1950/51—	£3,210.

The merging of the refuse rate in March, 1948, was a logical step, but inevitably it resulted in legitimate demands for a better service from the essentially rural Parishes. To meet the need a new Bedford 10 cubic yard vehicle with an Eagle all-steel body was purchased on the 30/5/49 and an old Bedford vehicle was

overhauled and reconditioned. The greatest single factor marring the full efficiency of the service is the non-provision of refuse bins of approved pattern, and a survey of one of the larger and more densely populated Parishes revealed the following position:—

	Premises	Percentage
Covered dustbins in good order	103	29.0
Dustbins in unsatisfactory condition	16	4.5
40-gallon drums	29	8.2
5- and 10-gallon drums	21	5.9
Refuse deposited on ground	8	2.2
Baths	24	6.8
Pails and buckets	25	7.0
Other receptacles, e.g. boxes, biscuit tins, old coppers, tubs, sacks, etc.	129	36.4
	<hr/> 355 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.0 <hr/>

It will be realised that to effect any appreciable improvement under the existing legislation combined with the results of recent case law will take some time. The Council carefully considered alternatives based on a comprehensive report, but at this stage were not able to recommend any scheme where the initial cost would be high and with due regard to existing commitments and the product of a penny rate (£250).

In September, 1949, the Council agreed to adopt revised collection schedules which in addition to improved frequency provide for the first time, fixed days of collection.

Refuse is collected from the bin site and lends points to the importance of the siting of bins in all housing schemes. An aluminium skep, several pounds lighter than those in use, was obtained on trial, but the personnel surprisingly rejected it although the weight saving per week per man would, on an average, be approximately 2 tons.

Salvage

The amounts and value are as follows:—

	Tons	Cwt.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	59	16	0	370	0	0
Textiles	4	9	0	70	0	0
Bones	1	5	0	17	0	0
Metals	8	7	0	31	0	0
Bottles, jars, cullet	14	5	0	48	0	0
	<hr/> 88 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>	<hr/> £536 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>

The Nett cost of the Public Cleansing and Salvage Services for the financial year 1st April, 1949 to 31st March, 1950 was £2,661 18s. 6d.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936—SECTION 269

(i) A site of 1 acre or therabouts, situate at London Road, Abridge owner and occupier Mr. R. H. Raven was licensed in 1947 and favourable consideration was given to the application for an adjoining site of 2.79 acres to be licensed. Adequate sanitary accommodation connected to the sewer is provided, the camp is well controlled and the two sites make a substantial contribution to those families who through force of circumstances are obliged to make moveable dwellings their temporary homes.

A licence was also granted to the Association for Jewish Youth in respect of a site at Stapleford Abbotts.

Land in the area is also used by many of the exempted organisations such as the Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland and it is pleasing to record that no complaints of these activities were received.

(ii) Three Licences expiring 31/12/49 were granted to station moveable dwellings.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS FROM JANUARY, 1949.

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	29
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Public Health Act, 1936

Water Supplies	510
Sewerage and Drainage	60
Stables and Piggeries	13
Fried Fish Shops	....	17
Tents, Vans and Sheds	....	144
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	291
Schools	....	18
Miscellaneous	....	100
Offensive Trades	....	6

Public Health and Housing Acts, 1936

1. (a) Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Act, 1936) 267
- (b) Total number of inspections for the purpose 541
2. Number of defective dwelling houses remedied fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority 241
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :
 Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 2

Miscellaneous

Visits re Petroleum Acts and Orders	....	19
Rats and Mice	....	23
Verminous Premises	....	65
Nuisances Abated	....	24
National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47		8
Factories Act, 1937	....	38

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Visits to :—

Bakehouses	....	23
Food Preparation Rooms	....	82
Slaughterhouses	....	171
Stalls	....	1
Butchers' Shops	....	31
Retail Food Shops	....	76
Ice Cream Premises	....	35
Restaurants	....	21

Milk and Dairies

Cowsheds	....	89
Dairies	....	3
Milk Samples	....	47

2,993



